

## **ARKANSAS SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

**By Bob Carroll**

The law of averages says that if you take enough football players, you'll find that a large number who played a particular position will hail from a particular area. Folks in western Pennsylvania have bragged for years about the famous quarterbacks who hail from their neck of the woods. They have a point, but when it comes to real saturation no part of the country can compare with Arkansas' amazing collection of ends and wide receivers.

If you glance at the enshrinees in the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, you'll see a wide range of famous athletes from many different sports. Basketball greats Goose Tatum and Sidney Moncrief will be familiar to everyone, and there's a real range of baseball stars like Lou Brock, Bill Dickey, Brooks Robinson, Lon Warneke, Dizzy Dean, and, naturally, Floyd "Arky" Vaughn. But soon you'll realize that the dominant sport represented is football. But as you ponder such names as Lou Holtz, Dave Hanner, Frank Broyles, Bill Bergey, Billy Ray Smith (junior and senior), Fred Williams, and Eddie Meador, you might not at first notice the state's "end connection." But once you do, the names almost leap out at you.

Don Hutson - the all-time Green Bay great was a college All- America at Alabama, but he began his football at Pine Bluff, AR.

Jim Benton - second only to Hutson as a receiver in his day, Arkansas native Benton won All-America honors at the University of Arkansas.

Jim Lee Howell - from Lonoke and the U. of Arkansas was best known as the Giants coach, but before that he was a top two-way end with the New Yorkers.

Paul "Bear" Bryant - born in Moro Bottoms won such fame as a coach that a lot of people forget he was the other end on Hutson's Alabama team in 1934.

Ken Kavanaugh was born in Little Rock and then played at LSU; he was All-Pro as the Chicago Bears most dangerous receiver during the 1940s.

Howard "Red" Hickey - all-SWC at the University and then starred for the Cleveland Rams. Remember when Coach Hickey of the 49ers brought back the shotgun in the early 1960s?

Pat Summerall - yes, the TV guy, was a pretty good kicker at Arkansas and with the Cards and Giants, but he also could go either way as an end.

Maurice Britt - starred at Arkansas and played one year with Detroit. He lost an arm but won the Congressional Medal of Honor during World War II and was elected Arkansas governor in 1966.

Wear Schoonover - didn't play pro but he was the first U. of Arkansas player to win All-America honors back in 1929.

Ray Hamilton - another standout end with the University and later with the Rams and Lions, he was later a game official.

Bobby Mitchell - came out of Hot Springs to play for Illinois and the Browns as a halfback, but he really took off as a Hall of Fame receiver with the Redskins.

Lance Alworth - also started as a halfback at the University but he became a devastating pass receiver with the Chargers in the 1960s.

Milan Creighton - was a three-time all-SWC end for the University and then after starring a few years with the Cardinals was named player-coach in 1935.

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Hugh "Bones" Taylor - excelled as a four-sport star at Wynne High School, but he was best known as one of Sammy Baugh's favorite receivers with the Redskins.

Willie Davis - out of Texarkana didn't catch passes; he crushed passers as a Hall of Fame defensive end for Lombardi's Packers.

Alton Baldwin - a familiar name to those who remember the old AAFC where he was a top pass-grabber for Buffalo. Still another star end from the University of Arkansas.

Preston Carpenter - out of the University started as a back with the Browns but spent most of his long pro career as a tight end.

Jerry Dalrymple - came out of Rosston to become an All-America at Tulane in 1931. He didn't play pro, but he's in the College Football Hall of Fame.

Chuck Dicus became the University of Arkansas all-time leader in pass receptions and won All-America honors in 1970.

Is that some roll call?

The Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame has been enshrining the state's sports stars since 1959. For more information, write to Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 250223, Little Rock, AR 72225.